

Chris H. Pipkin

January 21, 2002

Judge Kolar Kottely
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Judge Kolar Kottely:

It is my understanding that you are currently considering whether to accept the proposed settlement reached by the Department of Justice and Microsoft. I am writing to you in order to express my strong support for this settlement.

I am an investment officer in Cedar Rapids. The ebbs and flows of the economy, along with any outside forces that impact it, are of great interest to me. There is no doubt that bringing closure to the Microsoft case will have a positive impact on the national economy.

The government's case against Microsoft had potential to set far-reaching precedent for government intervention and regulation of an industry. This reality caused much concern for investors who worried that the growth of the technology industry would be hampered by government regulation. While there are many causes for our weakened economy, the uncertainty created by this case was a contributing factor in the decline of many technology stocks.

Bringing the Microsoft case to end is in the best interest of the economy and this proposed settlement is the vehicle to make it happen. While I do not know all of the intricate details of the settlement, what I have read leads me to believe a fair compromise addressing the concerns of the complaint was reached. For example, Microsoft will be bound to share intellectual property and must create new versions of Windows that allow the promotion of non-Microsoft products. The settlement also establishes a committee that will police Microsoft's compliance with the settlement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris H. Pipkin

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3604 HEATHERIDGE DR. ♦ Cedar Rapids, 52402 ♦ 319-862-2293